(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) what steps are being taken to make this facility easily accessable; and

(f) what is the quantity of subsidy availed so far by the deep sea fishing units since the inception of this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Government has announced an export-linked scheme for making High Speed Diesel Oil available at international prices to deep sea fishing vessels registered with Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under MPEDA Act, 1972 and the rules thereunder. MPEDA is implementing this scheme with effect from 1st April, 1991 for the diesel oil consumed from 1-1-1991 by the deep sea fishing vessels.

(b) to (f) 33 out of 38 registered exporter fishing companies have applied for assistance under the scheme. These applications are being processed.

Exchange Rate between Rupee, Rouble and Dollar

1273. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest exchange rate between (i) rupee-rouble (ii) rouble-dollar (iii) dollar-rupee; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to correct the fallacy in rupee-rouble-dollar rate, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) According to the latest information available from the Reserve Bank of India, the Rupee-Rouble exchange rate as on 5-9-1991 is Rs. 30.8390 is equal to Rouble 1 and the Dollar Rupee exchange rate on the same date is 1 US dollar is equal to Rs. 26.08. The Rouble is not a quoted convertible currency. The official exchange rate as on 2-9-91 as reported in the 'Financial Times', London of 3rd September, 1991 is US dollar 1 is equal to Rouble 0.5936.

(b) Both the Rupee and the Rouble are not convertible currencies. Hence the question of any fallacy in the Rupee-Rouble-Dollar rate does not arise.

Number of AIDS Cases detected Position

1274. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the country's foreign exchange reserve position as on 25th August, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): As on 25th August 1991 foreign exchange reserves (Excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) were Rs. 2816.76 crores.

Number of aids Cases Detected

1275. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of AIDS cases detected so far State-wise, indicating the number of cases prone to AIDS and those suffering from full blown AIDS;

(b) the sections of Society who are prone to this disease;

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken to contain it; and

(d) what is the progress made so far in finding an effective treatment of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a)